

DPHHS Oversight: Agency Legislation Purpose and Process of Committee Review

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Background

State law and legislative rules require interim committees to review proposed agency legislation and authorize early drafting of the bills. Each interim committee looks at the proposals of the agencies for which it has oversight responsibilities. The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee reviews the proposals of the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Reasons for Review

Committee review and approval of agency legislation serves several purposes by:

- giving committee members an early look at the ideas that state agencies plan to bring before them in the next session;
- reducing requests made of holdover senators and unopposed representatives to submit bill draft requests for agencies;
- allowing legislative staff to concentrate on legislator bill drafts after the election; and
- providing session committees with bills to hear in the early weeks of the session.

When committees authorize the drafting of agency bills, they are simply approving the early drafting and pre-introduction of the bills. The action does not represent an endorsement of the agency bills or a position on the merits of the proposals.

Review and Introduction Process

Each agency gives its oversight committee a brief description of each of its bills. Full bill drafts usually are not available when agencies present their ideas.

Interim committees generally authorize the proposals as a package.

Agencies then must submit full bill drafts to the Legislative Services Division by Nov. 15 in order to retain priority status for drafting. The bills must be pre-introduced by Dec. 15. Agencies must find legislators to sponsor their bills.